



Bravo Zulu

USS Greeneville (SSN 772)

Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal

**Lt. Cmdr. James Hertlein
MMC(SS) Todd Baker
STSC(SS) John Serenita**

Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal

**ETC(SS) Michael O'Keefe
ETC(SS) Larry Mason
STS1(SS) Patrick McLaen
ET2(SS) Christopher Fletcher**

Letter of Commendation

**MM1(SS) Nickolas George
MM2(SS) Richard Gardner
ET1(SS) Maurice Muser
ET2(SS) John Sawicki
MM2(SS) Brian Lynn
ET2(SS) Jeffery Tanner
MM2(SS) Daniel Seest
MM3(SS) Steven Emmert
FT3(SS) Christopher Morgan
MM3(SS) Joseph Rivas
SK3(SS) William Feddler
STSSA Christopher Stroup
SN(SS) Telly McClendon**

Sailor of the Quarter

EM2(SS) Richard Dungan

Junior Sailor of the Quarter

ET3(SS) Robert Sass

Promotions

**Lt. Chad Buermele
YNCS(SS) Warren
EM2(SS) Del Rico**

Qualified in Submarines

FT3(SS) Jeffery Benkovic

Around the Fleet

Minehunter Shrike to be commissioned in Baton Rouge

The Navy will commission its 12th and final coastal minehunter, Shrike (MHC 62), at the Baton Rouge, La. City Dock, during a Memorial Day ceremony May 31.

Shrike, commanded by Lt.Cmdr. Dan Derbes, a Baton Rouge native, has a crew of 46 enlisted personnel and five officers and will be homeported at Naval Station Ingleside, Texas.

Sicily implements plan to house 5,000 Kosovar refugees

Approximately half of the 10,000 Kosovar refugees that Italy has agreed to accept will be housed at Comiso, a NATO base near Naval Air Station Sigonella.

Over a thousand refugees have already arrived there, with 400 more each day coming from Macedonia, according to Carabinieri Master Chief Gaetano Giallombardo, the Comiso public affairs officer.

The refugees are living in military housing, which are two-story condominium-style units. There are about 15 to 20 people in each house, according to Mario Fiorito, an Italian air force officer with the 41st Stormo.

Web site highlights commemorative events for 50th Anniversary of the Korean War

From June 25, 2000, through Veterans' Day, 2003, the nation will commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War. The focus is to thank and honor veterans of the Korean War and their families and to educate a new generation on the legacy and lessons of the war.

The web site <http://korea50.army.mil> contains a wealth of information, including commemorative events, a chronology of the war, fact sheets, maps and biographies.

Congress has authorized the Department of Defense to organize the United States' 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration to ensure our Korean War veterans and their families know "a grateful nation remembers" their service and sacrifices 50 years ago.

For more information, contact the Commemoration Committee at (703)604-0820.

Top Navy Lodges win Carlson award

Three Navy Lodges have been selected by the Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) to receive the Edward E. Carlson Award for Navy Lodge excellence.

The winning lodges were chosen based on five performance indicators: occupancy, other direct expense, payroll, net contributions and reviews of customer comment card ranking and quality assurance assessments.

The 1998 Carlson Awards winners are:

- Small category (five-27 units): Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Ga.;
- Medium category (44-52 units): Naval Station Everett, Wash.;
- Large category winner (67 units and greater): Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.

The 1998 Hospitality Award, based on comment card ratings alone, was given to three Navy Lodges. Naval Air Facility El Centro, Calif. won in the small category; in the medium category, Naval Education and Training Center, Newport, R.I. was the winner; and Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico took the honors in the large category. The Navy Lodge in Newport, R.I., was also named the overall Hospitality Award winner.

Forty Navy Lodge locations worldwide provide quality, affordable lodging to Navy, other military and Department of Defense personnel who are relocating, on temporary duty or on vacation. To receive a copy of the Navy Lodge directory or to make reservations, call 1-800-NAVY-INN. For more information on the Navy Lodge program, visit their web site at www.navy-nex.com.

VP-47 'Golden Swordsmen' to change command

By Lt.j.g. Jeff Tillman
VP-47

Cmdr. James C. Grunewald will be relieved as commanding officer of Patrol Squadron 47 (VP-47) by Cmdr. James C. Tanner on June 2 during a traditional change of command ceremony at Naval Air Station Barbers Point.

Rear Adm. Michael Holmes, Commander, Patrol Reconnaissance Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet, will be the guest speaker.

Grunewald led the Golden Swordsmen through many highly successful evolutions the past year. Shortly after assuming command, VP-47 participated in the challenging Rim of the Pacific 98 exercise with Japan, Australia, Korea, Canada, and Chile. The squadron also participated in countless other maritime patrol support, escort services and reconnaissance missions for carrier battle groups operating in the area. These included the PCOSS evolution, PASSEX with the USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) Battle Group, and providing anti-submarine support for the USS Boxer (LHD 4) Amphibious Ready Group and the USS Constellation (CV 64) Battle Group.

The Golden Swordsmen completed highly successful AME programs with 39 programs receiving "on-track," and 24 of them with zero discrepancies. The squadron also received a perfect score on the CWTPI. The Navy recognized VP-47's high standards and hard work by awarding the Navy Unit Commendation and Chief of Naval Operations Safety Awards to the squadron under Grunewald's leadership.

Grunewald, wife Corinne, and their two sons, Rudy and Jake, will move to Washington, D.C. as he reports to Chief of Naval Operation's staff as P-3 Requirements Officer.

Tanner, VP-47's incoming commanding officer, is a native of Valencia, Calif. He graduated from the Naval Academy in 1981, earning a



Cmdr. James Grunewald
Outgoing commanding officer



Cmdr. James Tanner
Incoming commanding officer



Cmdr. Gregory Wittman
Incoming executive officer

Bachelor of Science degree in aerospace engineering. After designation as a Naval aviator in January 1983, he reported to VP-46, NAS Moffett Field, Calif, where he served as the public affairs officer, ground training officer, and aviation safety officer. During this tour he deployed to Misawa, Japan, and Diego Garcia with detachments to Adak, Alaska, and Kadena, Okinawa.

In April 1989, Tanner earned a Master of Science Degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, Calif.

Tanner's next tour was aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), homeported in Norfolk, Va., where he served as the catapult and arresting gear division officer. He completed Mediterranean and Persian Gulf deployments in support of Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Provide Comfort.

In July 1991, Tanner reported for duty as an instructor pilot at VP-31, serving as the safety and operations Officer. Tanner then joined VP-9 in January 1993. During this tour he served as the training maintenance officer and completed a tri-site deployment to Diego Garcia. Following his department head tour, Tanner reported to the staff of Commander, Patrol Wings, U.S. Pacific Fleet where he served as the

training officer and the assistant chief of staff for manpower and personnel.

In March 1998, Tanner earned a Master of Arts in National Security Affairs and Strategic Studies at the Naval War College, Newport, RI. In June 1998, he reported to VP-47 as executive officer. His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, three Navy Commendation Medals and various unit commendations and campaign awards.

Tanner is married to the former Sandra Smithee of Pensacola, Fla. They have three children, Katie, Abbey, and Dax.

The Golden Swordsmen's new executive officer is Cmdr. Gregory Jon Wittman. Wittman graduated from the Naval Academy in May 1982 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in resource management. Upon commissioning as an ensign, he served on the Staff of the Commandant of Midshipmen at the Naval Academy until reporting to Pensacola, Florida in 1984 for flight training. He was designated a Naval Flight Officer in March 1985.

Wittman reported for his initial assignment to VP-49 in Jacksonville, Fla. Achieving designation as patrol plane tactical coordinator and mission commander, he completed deployments to Bermuda and Sicily. In May 1989, Wittman transferred to Washington D.C. where he

served two years as assistant for officer accession programs on the Staff of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (OP-01). In August 1991, he reported aboard USS America (CV 66) where he served as communications officer and completed a cruise to the Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf.

Wittman reported in April 1994 to VP-1 at NAS Barbers Point. During his department head tour, he served as administrative officer and operations officer, deploying to Japan and relocating to Whidbey Island, Wash. in support of the squadron's homeport change. In March 1996, he transferred to Sicily where he assumed duties as officer in charge, Tactical Support Center Sigonella and Commander, Maritime Air Control Authority Sigonella.

Wittman reported to the Naval War College in March 1998, graduating with a Master of Arts degree in national security and strategic studies.

Wittman's decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (with gold star), Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal (with gold star), and various campaign and service awards.

Wittman is married to the former Tina Marie Kirchner of Annapolis, Maryland. They have a daughter, Ashley, and a son, Ryan.

One on one: A look at top initiatives in fleet supply, logistics

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There is no question we lost a good deal of the functionality we had under a separate Navy pay system when we converted to DJMS last year. We knew that was going to happen and agreed to make the change recognizing the significant savings that would result to DOD from having a single pay system. What we didn't anticipate was the number of problems we have had since implementation of DJMS.

I am concerned about DJMS for two reasons.

First and foremost is the impact on our people when their pay is not correctly computed.

Second is the impact on our DKs (Disbursing Clerks) and PNs (Personnelmen) afloat and ashore when they are required to do workarounds and follow-ups that significantly increase their already strenuous workload.

Both Fleets have been very vocal about our concerns over DJMS deficiencies. (Naval Supply Systems Command) has agreed to act as Fleet advocate in working with (Defense Finance and Accounting Service) to address the problems we have identified. DJMS will remain high on my priority list until we get these issues resolved.

One big question in every Sailor's mind is what will happen to my pay in the Year 2000? What is Fleet Supply doing to combat the Y2K Challenge?

We are actively engaged in

the Y2K validation process. We are in direct contact with the various commands who hold responsibility for the software applications which our supply organizations rely on both afloat and ashore. Current plans indicate we will have all essential systems Y2K compliant in sufficient time to conduct the necessary testing to ensure there will be no interruption of supply support.

As to your question on pay, one reassuring thing about DJMS is that it has already been tested and it has been certified Y2K compliant. DFAS is still working some interface applications with our Navy personnel database at the Naval Personnel Command in Millington, but we're confident our people's pay will not be interrupted by a Y2K problem.

Mail is another important subject for Sailors and Marines. Any new postal initiatives, such as the Military Origin Destination Information Service, being undertaken this year?

Originally MODIS was to be installed on conventional aircraft carriers and our large amphib, but plans are now in process to expand MODIS to all Navy ships. It's already been installed at all Navy postal activities ashore overseas. The MODIS data will assist postal management personnel in the early detection of mail delays and problems, allowing a quicker response to tackle any problems that may develop.

One other postal initiative of note is the establishment of expanded postal refresher

training in San Diego. In December last year, an agreement was signed in San Diego between the Fleet Industrial Supply Center and Naval Station to consolidate all of the military and civilian postal personnel under one organization. Initially, the agreement will result in improved mail distribution and service, cost savings, and expanded dockside mail delivery to all ships in port in the San Diego region.

The next step in the plan is to operate the San Diego Naval Station Post Office as a contract facility with the Navy postal personnel actually conducting operations vice U.S. Postal Service personnel. Then, the senior Navy Postal Clerks will offer refresher training to all shipboard and ashore Postal Clerks, as well as Postal Officers and Postal Audit Team members.

Is there anything else you'd like to add about the job of "getting beans, bullets and black oil to the Fleet" supply centers and departments?

Logistics is an exciting business with many challenges confronting us as we work to ensure our operating units are getting the support they need to accomplish their mission. The good news is we have a great team of logistics professionals working together to address those challenges throughout our Fleet and its supporting commands and we all have one goal best summed up in our Supply Corps' motto: "Keeping our Navy Ready for Sea."

Fletcher to hold change of command

By Lt.j.g. Stacey Sutton

USS FLETCHER

Cmdr. Christopher D. Noble will relieve Capt. (sel.) Richard W. Durham as commanding officer of USS Fletcher (DD 992) on June 4 at 1 p.m. at the USS Nevada Memorial.

Durham's tour onboard Fletcher included guiding the ship through a rigorous engineering certification and final evaluation period prior to deploying last August for the Arabian Gulf. While deployed, Fletcher participated in United Nations sanctions against Iraq and was a major participant in Operation Desert Fox last December.

Durham will next report to USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) in Bremerton, Wash.

Noble reports to Fletcher from the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Penn. He has completed sea tours aboard USS Barney (FF 1088), USS Chandler (DD 996), USS McClusky (FFG 41), USS Ranger (CV 61), and as Commanding Officer, USS Gladiador (MCM 11).

He is married to the former Diane Piper of Sun City, Calif. They have three sons: Clint, Barret, and Travis.